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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 19 January 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the document entitled "Proposal for the immediate signing of the agreement on a firm and lasting peace in Guatemala" (see annex), the original of which was personally delivered to you today by the President of the Republic of Guatemala, Mr. Jorge Antonio Serrano Elías.

In that document, the Government of Guatemala proposes to the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), on the basis of the understandings reached, that the Total Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace Ending the Internal Armed Conflict should be signed within a period not exceeding 90 days from the signing of the Human Rights Agreement, which the Government is prepared to sign immediately, including provisions on immediate verification. The Government further proposes that, in the unlikely event that the said Agreement cannot be signed, a definitive cease-fire should be declared upon the expiry of the afore-mentioned 90-day period.

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Proposal for the immediate signing of the agreement on a firm and lasting peace in Guatemala (19 January 1993)

Peace is not just the absence of war, but the creation of a set of conditions which will allow man to live without fear or anxiety

Jorge Serrano Elías

I. BACKGROUND

In August 1987, when the Esquipulas II agreements were signed, the people of Guatemala began to hope for an end to the internal armed conflict, which had begun more than 33 years before.

After the signing of the Oslo Agreement on 30 March 1990, all the various groups in the country, without exception, held talks with the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) and, on 24 April 1991, talks began between the Government and URNG with a view to reaching agreements that could put an end to the conflict.

The young Guatemalan democracy faced, with dignity and diligence, its responsibility for achieving peace by political and civilized means, while striving to put aside the traditional postures of polarization and confrontation. That effort was embodied in the Esquipulas, Oslo, El Escorial, Querétaro and Mexico City Agreements, as was made clear at the many meetings in Ottawa, Quito, Metepec, Atlixco, Cuernavaca, Querétaro and Mexico City, in which Guatemala participated in a conciliatory spirit.

II. BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

The Government of Guatemala, with the support of broad segments of society and a cross-section of the country's leaders, is putting forward a proposal which could bring about the end of the internal armed conflict.

The Government is making this final proposal because URNG has stated publicly that: (a) its greatest interest is the "immediate verification" of the human rights agreements, on which basic understandings already exist; and (b) the Government's acceptance would expedite the discussion of the remainder of the agenda, on the basis of the "comprehensive documents" submitted by both parties.

The Government hopes that URNG will accept this proposal. Otherwise, it would be clear that the insurgency regards the negotiations as a "fighting strategy" and, accordingly, is not genuinely interested in their outcome.

The Government recognizes that, as experts have stated, the internal armed conflict is the major source of human rights violations in Guatemala, and that verification is extremely difficult so long as that confrontation persists.

III. PROPOSAL

The Government, aware of the progress achieved in Guatemala in the area of human rights and wishing to give further proof of its commitment and determination, decides to agree to the immediate verification of the human rights agreements. However, in order to prevent this action being used by URNG as a means for its international political struggle and to enable the Government's flexibility to be of real assistance in bringing the internal armed conflict to a definitive end, proposes:

(1) That, based on the understandings that have been reached and of which the Conciliator, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruño, and the Observer, Mr. Jean Arnault, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, are fully aware, the human rights agreement, including provisions on immediate verification, should be signed immediately;

(2) That, as soon as the Government of Guatemala guarantees the fulfilment of this proposal, URNG should undertake to expedite the negotiations by taking part in a permanent meeting within the framework of the Oslo, Mexico City and Querétaro agreements, so that, within a period of no more than 90 days after the signing of the human rights agreement, the total agreement on a firm and lasting peace, which would end the internal armed conflict, can be signed;

(3) In the unlikely event that a definitive agreement cannot be reached within 90 days, and in order to provide guarantees to the people of Guatemala and the international community, the Government and URNG should pledge immediately:

3.1 To declare a definitive cease-fire upon the expiry of the aforementioned 90-day period;

3.2 In order to make the foregoing possible, the Government shall determine the places where, under United Nations supervision, URNG should temporarily concentrate all its armed contingents until the negotiations are completed, a definitive peace agreement is reached and the final procedures are established for the demobilization and disarmament of URNG and its integration into the legal and institutional life of Guatemala;

3.3 In order to carry out the operation referred to in the preceding paragraph, the Secretary-General of the United Nations would be requested to propose the appropriate procedures;

(4) This proposal for reconciliation is in keeping with the desire and profound aspiration of the people of Guatemala to live in peace and thus achieve full economic and social development that would ensure the well-being of all Guatemalans; the Government of Guatemala requests the United Nations and the countries interested in finding a solution to this conflict to lend their solidarity and support for the achievement of that goal.

This proposal, which has received the broadest possible support from the people of Guatemala, is submitted with optimism and faith in God, and in the conviction that peace is not limited to a cease-fire alone and that it is the Government's responsibility, with the support of the international community, to reunify and reconcile the Guatemalan family.